1: Burrows--31 (1947-48) Woleaians
515, 264 Ifalik

"A piece of coconut husk makes a scrubbing brush for a bath. It serves as a napkin to wipe off the fingers after a meal."

4: Krämer--221 (1909) 1937 Woleaians
116, 511, 515 Woleai

The islanders get up early. The men wash at the beach, bathe, and rinse their mouths with salt water. The women wash on another part of the beach. The children may go with either their fathers of mothers (Lütke).

According to Kotzebue, Endeckungsreise...page 87, the inhabitants of Ulea excel the Rataks in prosperity and in many other matters. But these remarks of the conceited native, Kadu, do not apply in actuality.

6: Senfft--54
116, 515

(no date) 1905

Woleaians
Woleai
Lamotrek

They are a very clean people and bathe every day.

11: Born--187 (1903) 1904 Woleaians
116, 515 Woleai

The women of Oleai are very particular about cleanliness. They go into the sea to bathe about three times a day, and wash their entire bodies as well as their clothing with coconut scrapings. They wash the children at the same time, beginning with the youngest infants. They wash out the ears, mouth, nose, and eyes with leaves, a process which is, of course, accompanied by cries and shrieks on the part of the children.

28: Spiro--95 [3] (1947-48) 1949 Woleaians
116, 866, 515 Ifalik

"Dependency training has its inception at this time as well. The child who can walk is expected to wash himself, for example. Often, if the child is very dirty, it will be washed by an older sibling or adult, even at the age of eight or nine."

28: Spiro--147 [2] (1947-48) 1949 Woleaians
116, 222, 512, 515 Ifalik

"In the late afternoon the young men again collect their toddy. And at the same time, they take their afternoon bath. Everyone bathes in the late afternoon. The women bathe in the lagoon directly in front of their houses, walking into the water, wearing their skirts. The men usually bathe in a secluded beach far from habitation, and change loin cloths, which they keep in the canoe houses. Both sexes use grated coconut meat as soap."

41: Bates & Abbott N-5 (1953) 1958
OR21 Woleai OR21
Ifaluk

unusual about the food except our corned beef. But always, after a communal activity of any kind, there was a communal meal. I drifted from group to group taking pictures and eating a snack of breadfruit with this friend, a hunk of taro with that, and letting them play the always-amusing game of peering at one another through the sights of my Graphic camera.

The day was shot as far as "work" for us was concerned. By the time we had got film and notes taken care of, we were ready for our afternoon swim in the lagoon in front of the Fan Nap.

From the beginning, we had formed a habit of going for a swim in the lagoon toward the end of the afternoon. Many people on Ifaluk bathed in the lagoon in late afternoon, so we were right in line with local custom. As an old Floridian, I really preferred swimming in the bright sun of mid-day and I tried to make our lagoon schedule as early in the afternoon as I could; but what with one thing or another, we often didn't get into the water until rather late.

We always wore goggles. I wonder now why anyone ever goes swimming without goggles. Man, under water, is blind without them. In many places, to be sure, there is little to see; but one can never be sure of this without trying. And in the lagoon at Ifaluk there were unending marvels to be looked at.

We were caught at first by the sheer pleasure of drifting around, exclaiming at the forms of the corals and of the colors of the fish. Then we got to thinking that if we were to spend an hour or so in the water every afternoon, we might as well be trying to make some systematic observations.

The fish, we noticed, paid very little attention to us. Apparently a large brown object of human shape plopped into their environment had no connotation of danger. The fish went on about their business as usual, indifferent to the observer. The contrast with the land, where birds and mammals clearly regard observing man as a potential enemy, was great. We didn't have to resort to field glasses or blinds—we could just float pleasantly on the surface and watch the fish. In coral seas, at least, fish watching seems to me to have it all over bird watching, though I doubt whether I would be so enthusiastic about fish watching in colder waters.